brown when the sea is agitated. At sunset the waves are kindled with glowing hues of purple and emerald. Or, as Byron sings,—

"O'er the hushed deep the yellow beam he throws, Gilds the green wave that trembles as it grows."

A variety of local circumstances also influence the colour of the ocean-waters and

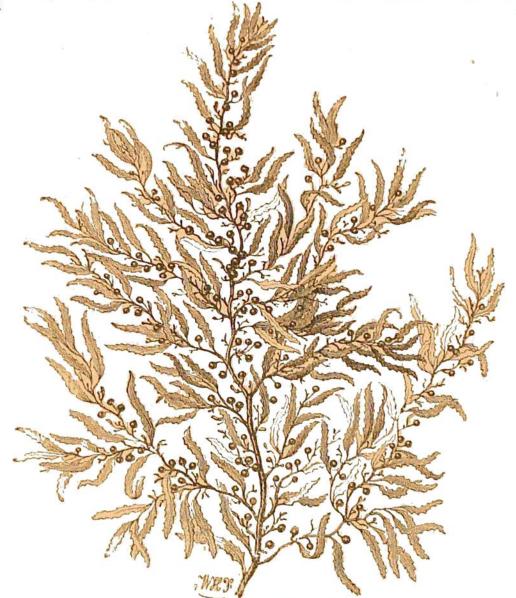


FIG. 207.—SARGASSO WEED.

be of white sand, and the water not very deep, its tint will be grayish or applegreen; if the sand be yellow, the green is deepened and darkened. The neighbourhood of reefs is frequently indicated by the "pronounced colour" of the surrounding sea. In the Bay of Loango the waters seem of a burning red, because such is the natural colour of its bed.

At other times a peculiar tint is given to the waters by coloured animalcules. The Red Sea owes its colouring to a microscopic alga, the *Trichodesmium erythræum*. The sea-waters—condensed by the spontaneous action of the solar rays—in the saltmarshes of Southern France assume, when they have arrived at a certain stage of